

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the subject application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1, 3-13, 15, 18-20 are pending in the application with claim 1 being independent. Applicant cancels claims 14, 16, and 17 without prejudice, waiver, or disclaimer of the subject matter. Applicant amends independent claim 1 to include allowable subject matter of independent claim 17.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant appreciates the indication that claims 17-19 are allowable. Claim 1 is amended herein to include features of allowable claim 17 and is therefore, believed to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, claim 17 is canceled.

Terminal Disclaimer

During the above-referenced interview, Examiner Boccio indicated that he would like a terminal disclaimer submitted. Applicant hereby submits a terminal disclaimer.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103 A. and B.

A. Claims 1, 3-5, 7-8, 12, 13, 15, and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,966,121 to Hubbell et al. (hereinafter "Hubbell") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,611,812 to Hurtado et al. (hereinafter "Hurtado").

Independent Claim 1

Claim 1 is amended to incorporate elements of allowable claim 17. Applicant cancels claim 17. Accordingly, claim 1 is believed to be in condition for allowance.

Dependent claims 3-5, 7-8, 12, 13, 15, and 20 depend directly or indirectly from independent claim 1 and are allowable by virtue of this dependency, as well as for additional features that they recite. Applicant also respectfully requests individual consideration of these dependent claims.

Applicant respectfully submits that the cited references do not render the claimed subject matter obvious and that the claimed subject matter, therefore, patentably distinguishes over the cited references. For all of these reasons, Applicant respectfully requests the §103 rejection of these claims should be withdrawn.

B. Claims 6 and 9-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,966,121 to Hubbell et al. (hereinafter “Hubbell”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,611,812 to Hurtado et al. (hereinafter “Hurtado”) and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 5,933,394 to Kim et al. (hereinafter “Kim”).

Dependent claims 6 and 9-11 depend directly or indirectly from independent claim 1 and are allowable by virtue of this dependency, as well as for additional features that they recite. Applicant also respectfully requests individual consideration of these dependent claims.

CONCLUSION

Claims 1, 3-13, 15, 18-20 are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and prompt allowance of the subject application. If any issue remains unresolved that would prevent allowance of this case, the Office is requested to contact the undersigned attorney to resolve the issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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